



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

## Fiscal Note 2011 Biennium

<b>Bill #</b>	HB0373	<b>Title:</b>	Gold star families special license plates
<b>Primary Sponsor:</b>	Wilmer, Franke	<b>Status:</b>	As Introduced

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Local Gov Impact     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Needs to be included in HB 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technical Concerns   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Included in the Executive Budget | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Long-Term Impacts           | <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Revenue Form Attached |

### FISCAL SUMMARY

	<u>FY 2010 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2011 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2012 Difference</u>	<u>FY 2013 Difference</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
General Fund	\$4,800	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Revenue:</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Impact-General Fund Balance:</b>	<u><u>(\$4,800)</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>

#### Description of fiscal impact:

HB 373 would require programming and configuration of the Montana Enhanced Registration and Licensing Information Network (MERLIN) which would result in a negative impact on the general fund.

HB 373 is one of several bill drafts that seek to modify motor vehicle laws and therefore the motor vehicle licensing system (MERLIN). The fiscal note for each bill will be prepared based on the effect of the individual bill. However, when viewed as a package, the cumulative effect of passage of more than one bill will require additional analysis and may provide opportunities to share or redistribute costs.

### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### Assumptions:

##### Department of Justice

1. Section 5 of HB 373 provides a new license plate design that may be issued to gold star families for placement on the motor vehicle (except a motorcycle, quadricycle, semitrailer, or pole trailer) upon proper identification and eligibility verification.
2. In addition to the current people eligible to purchase military license plates, HB 373 would allow parents, siblings, and children of a member of the U.S. armed services who died during combat to purchase one.

Due to the many variables (such as number of members of the U.S. armed services who will die during combat, the number of family members of those service members, etc.), the Department of Justice is unable to estimate the number of gold star license plates that would be issued. Regardless, HB 373 does not provide for new fees or changes to existing fees; thus, there is no anticipated revenue impact.

3. Programming and configuration will be necessary in the MERLIN system for the addition and issuance of this new plate design. The system configuration and testing will be contracted by Justice Information Technology Services Division to its contractor. The total estimated cost would be \$4,800.

	<b><u>FY 2010</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2011</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2012</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2013</u></b>
	<b><u>Difference</u></b>	<b><u>Difference</u></b>	<b><u>Difference</u></b>	<b><u>Difference</u></b>
<b><u>Fiscal Impact:</u></b>				
<b><u>Expenditures:</u></b>				
Operating Expenses	\$4,800	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b><u>Funding of Expenditures:</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	\$4,800	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b><u>Revenues:</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b><u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Funding of Expenditures):</u></b>				
General Fund (01)	(\$4,800)	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Technical Notes:**

1. 61-3-458 (1)(c), MCA, states “Special military or veteran license plates may not be issued for a motorcycle, quadricycle, semitrailer, or pole trailer.” However, in 61-3-458 (2)(a), MCA, and HB 373, section (3) state “upon application, after paying all applicable motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer or pole trailer registration fees...” Clarification is needed with regard to the availability of these plates for the multiple vehicle types.
2. It is unclear who would be responsible for the new plate design and costs associated with the plate design.

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*Sponsor's Initials*


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*Date*


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*Budget Director's Initials*


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*Date*